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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ENVEN-TURE GLOBAL TECHNLOGY [US/US]; 16200 A Park Row, Houston, TX 77084 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): COSTA, Scott [US/US]; 2011 Willow Point, Kingwood, TX 77330 (US). RING, Lev [US/US]; 14126 Heatherhill Place, Houston, TX 77077 (US). MENCHACA, Jose [US/US]; 9800 Pagewood Lane, Number 210, Houston, TX 77042 (US).
- (74) Agent: MATTINGLY, Todd; Haynes and Boone, LLP, 1000 Louisiana, Suite 4300, Houston, TX 77002-5012 (US).

- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, Al., AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK. MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
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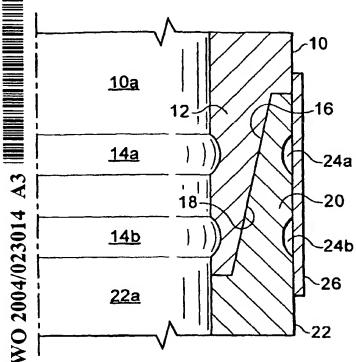
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(54) Title: THREADED CONNECTION FOR EXPANDABLE TUBULARS



(57) Abstract: A threaded connection for expandable tubulars. There is a first tubular (10) with external threads (16) and a second tubular (22) with matching internal threads. Each of these tubular has stress concentration grooves (14a, 14b, 24a, 24b). There is a sleeve (26) that goes over the connection between the threaded portions of the tubulars. After connection these tubulars can be expanded downhole in a wellbore.

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International application No.

PCT/US03/25716

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER				
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US CL : 166/380, 207; 285/333				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S.: 166/380, 207, 381, 382, 206; 285/333, 334; 403/297				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
searched that manifest documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Please See Continuation Sheet				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	propriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	
х	US 5,924,745 A (Campbell) 20 July 1999 (20.07:19	999), figures 3 and 4 column 3 lines	1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12,	
	9 - column 4, line 27.	,	1, 3-3, 7-9, 11, 12,	
Y	SU 1,756,531 A (KRYZHANOVSKII et al) 28 Mar abstract.	rch 1990 (28.03.1990), Figure 1,	1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12,	
Y	WO 99/23354 (METCALFE) 14 May 1999 (14.05.	1999), figure 5, page 11 lines 23-28.	15, 17-21 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12,	
A, E	1 110 6 622 707 P2 (CI37 PV IV) 22 C-1-1-2 2002 (22 00 2002)		15, 17-21 1-12, 15-21	
A, E	US 6,607,220 B2 (SIVLEY, IV) 19 August 2003 (19.08.2003), whole document.		1-12, 15-21	
A, P	US 6,564,875 B1 (BULLOCK) 20 May 2003 (20.05.2003), whole document.		1-12, 15-21	
A	US 2002/0108756 A1 (HARRALL et al) 15 August 2002 (15.06.2002), whole document.		1-12, 15-21	
Α	US 6,322,109 BI (CAMPBELL et al) 27 November 2001 (27.11.2001), whole document.		1-12, 15-21	
Α	US 6,085,838 A (VERCAEMER et al) 11 July 2000 (11.07.2000), whole document.		1-12, 15-21	
Further	documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or				
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance		priority date and not in conflict with understand the principle or theory un	the application but cited to	
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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)		"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is		
"O" document referring to an aral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		combined with one or more other suc combination being obvious to a perso	n cocuments, such on skilled in the art	
"P" document member of the same patent family  priority date claimed.  "A"  document member of the same patent family				
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	mmissioner for Patents  D. Box 1450	David J. Daguell V 1		
	xandrin, Virginia 22313-1450	Telephone No. (703) 308-1113		
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230				
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Continuation of B. FTELDS SEARCHED Item 3: Derwent, JPO, EPO	
Terms: Thread, Stress concentrator, stress, expand/expanding, tubular, casing	
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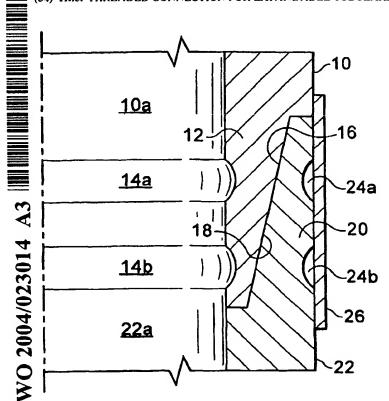
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- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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[Continued on next page]

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CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,

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(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FL, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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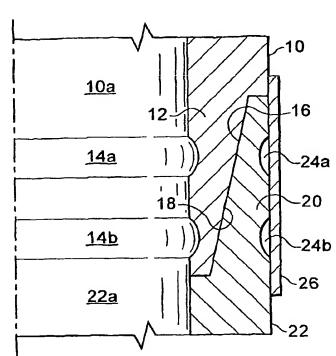
with amended claims

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[Continued on next page]

(74) Agent: MATTINGLY, Todd; Haynes and Boone, LLP, 901 Main Street, Suite 3100, Dallas, TX 75202 (US).

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## AMENDED CLAIMS

received by the International Bureau on 07 March 2005 : claims 1 to 21 are unchanged, claims 22 to 48 are new

- 1. An assembly, comprising:
  - a first tubular member comprising external threads; and
  - a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of the first tubular member;
  - wherein at least one of the first and second tubular members define one or more stress concentrators.
- The assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
  - an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second tubular members.
- The assembly of claim 1, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprise surface grooves formed in the surfaces of at least one of the first and second tubular members.
- 4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the stress concentrators are defined above the internal and external threads of the first and second tubular members.
- 5. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:
  - positioning the assembly of claim 1 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and
  - radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
- 6. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:
  - positioning the assembly of claim 2 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and
  - radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
- 7. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:
  - positioning the assembly of claim 3 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and
  - radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
- 8. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:
  - positioning the assembly of claim 4 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and
  - radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

An apparatus, comprising:

a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:
positioning the assembly of claim 1 within the wellbore; and
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.

10. An apparatus, comprising:

a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore; wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising: positioning the assembly of claim 2 within the wellbore; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.

11. An apparatus, comprising:

a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore; wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising: positioning the assembly of claim 3 within the wellbore; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.

12. An apparatus, comprising:

a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:
positioning the assembly of claim 4 within the wellbore; and
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.

15. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:

means for positioning the assembly of claim 1 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

16. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:

means for positioning the assembly of claim 2 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and

means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

17. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:

means for positioning the assembly of claim 3 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and

means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

18. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:

means for positioning the assembly of claim 4 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and

means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

19. A method of providing a fluid tight seal between a pair of overlapping tubular members, comprising:

forming one or more stress concentrators within at least one of the tubular members; and

radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular members.

- 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the tubular members are threadably coupled; and wherein the stress concentrators are formed above the threaded coupling.
- 21. The method of claim 19, wherein the stress concentrators comprise surface grooves formed in at least one of the tubular members.
- 22. An assembly, comprising:
  - a first tubular member comprising external threads;
  - a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of the first tubular member; and
  - an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second tubular members;
  - wherein at least one of the first and second tubular members define one or more stress concentrators.
- 23. The assembly of claim 22, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprise surface grooves formed in the surfaces of at least one of the first and second tubular members.
- 24. The assembly of claim 22, wherein the stress concentrators are defined above the

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internal and external threads of the first and second tubular members.

25. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:

positioning an assembly within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole; wherein the assembly comprises:

a first tubular member comprising external threads;

a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of the first tubular member; and

an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second tubular members;

wherein at least one of the first and second tubular members define one or more stress concentrators.

# 26. An apparatus, comprising:

a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and

a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;

wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:

positioning an assembly within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole; wherein the assembly comprises:

a first tubular member comprising external threads;

a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of the first tubular member; and

an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second tubular members;

wherein at least one of the first and second tubular members define one or more stress concentrators.

# A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:

means for positioning an assembly within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and

means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole; wherein the assembly comprises:

a first tubular member comprising external threads;

a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of the first tubular member; and

an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second tubular members;

wherein at least one of the first and second tubular members define one or more stress concentrators.

## 28. An assembly, comprising:

a first tubular member comprising external threads; and

a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of the first tubular member;

wherein the first and second tubular members each define one or more stress concentrators.

29. The assembly of claim 28, further comprising:

an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second tubular members.

- 30. The assembly of claim 28, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprise surface grooves formed in the surfaces of at least one of the first and second tubular members.
- 31. The assembly of claim 28, wherein the stress concentrators are defined above the internal and external threads of the first and second tubular members.
- 32. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:

positioning the assembly of claim 28 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and

radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

33. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:

positioning the assembly of claim 29 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and

radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

34. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:

positioning the assembly of claim 30 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and

radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

35. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising: positioning the assembly of claim 31 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

# 36. An apparatus, comprising:

a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore; wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising: positioning the assembly of claim 28 within the wellbore; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.

# 37. An apparatus, comprising:

a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:
positioning the assembly of claim 29 within the wellbore; and
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.

## 38. An apparatus, comprising:

a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore; wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising: positioning the assembly of claim 30 within the wellbore; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.

# 39. An apparatus, comprising:

a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:
positioning the assembly of claim 31 within the wellbore; and
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.

# A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:

means for positioning the assembly of claim 28 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

- 41. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:
  - means for positioning the assembly of claim 29 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and
  - means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
- 42. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:
  - means for positioning the assembly of claim 30 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and
  - means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
- 43. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:
  - means for positioning the assembly of claim 31 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and
  - means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
- 44. A method of providing a fluid tight seal between a pair of overlapping tubular members, comprising:
  - forming one or more stress concentrators within each of the tubular members; and radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular members.
- 45. The method of claim 44, wherein the tubular members are threadably coupled; and wherein the stress concentrators are formed above the threaded coupling.
- 46. The method of claim 44, wherein the stress concentrators comprise surface grooves formed in at least one of the tubular members.
- 47. A method of providing a fluid tight seal between a pair of overlapping tubular members, comprising:
  - concentrating compressive stresses onto the overlapping portions of the tubular members; and
  - radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular members.
- 48. The method of claim 47, wherein the tubular members are threadably coupled; and wherein the compressive stresses are concentrated onto the threaded coupling during the radial expansion and plastic deformation.